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BRIEFER ARTICLES.

Vitality of *Marsilia quadrifolia*.—A most remarkable instance of the retention of vitality in the spores of this plant has recently come to my notice. In the summer of 1892 I gathered fertile specimens at Fresh Pond, near Cambridge, Mass. The rhizomes and their attached sporocarps were at once put into commercial alcohol (95%) and have been kept therein continuously to the present time. Spores from specimens used by a student in morphology (Miss Anna Tarnutzer) were left in water in the dissecting dishes for several days. When about to clean up the dishes Miss Tarnutzer was surprised to find young plants in the water. She called my attention to them and examination showed that they were young sporophytes of *Marsilia*, with shoots an inch or more long and roots well developed.

It was thought that this might be exceptional, and Miss Tarnutzer was directed to select spores from a freshly opened sporocarp and sow them in water. These also germinated as did many others which were tried, and the class was able to study the prothallium and sexual organs as well as the developing sporophyte.

The sporocarp of this plant is of course very resistant, but one would hardly expect it to be able to exclude alcohol so completely during three years immersion as to leave both microspores and megaspores capable of germination.—CHARLES R. BARNES, *University of Wisconsin*.

***Aspidium simulatum* DAVENPORT.**—Since the publication of this species I have received specimens for examination from a number of sources and found that my suspicion in regard to its having been many times collected for either *Aspidium Thelypteris* or *A. Noveboracense* was well founded.

I give the following additional stations not only as an indication of its range, but as positive evidence that botanists may expect to find it masquerading under one or the other of its congeners' names in their herbaria:

"Sawmill Pond, Anne Arundel co., Maryland, October 1, 1894, in wet thickets and quite plentiful."

Collected by C. E. Waters, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, who writes that "the sporangia were still unopened, but so nearly ripe that on taking the fronds from the damp driers the dry air caused the sporangia to open so rapidly that a decided crackling noise could be